The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE
ORGANIZE
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MUSSOLINI JOYFUL; LABOR HANDCUFFED

Washington, June 5.—While Mussolini announces the triumph of Fascismo and the death of Democracy, press dispatches indicate that the Fascisti trade unions do not share the dictator's joy.

Only workers' organizations that accept Fascismo will be tolerated by the government. All others are outlawed.

This ancient system, revived a few years ago by Governor Allen of Kansas, is cheered by Mussolini as a "discovery."

The handcuffing of Italian workers to their tasks is explained as "depriving anti-Fascist organizations of their power." Non-Italian workers must pay dues to the Fascist trade unions but these workers have no vote or voice. They are only permitted to "enjoy the benefits" of government-controlled unions. If they suspend work they are jailed.

Disputes with employes must be submitted to compulsory arbitration, and the government retains the right to change any award.

Lockouts are also outlawed. Employers, however, are not likely to resort to this method while conditions are imposed on labor by a government that is dominated by these employers.

ANTI-UNION LEADER FEARS UNION WAGES

Detroit, June 5.—Trade union hours and wages in the Detroit building trades would menace the automobile industry, declared Noel Sargent, manager of the industrial relations department of the National Association of Manufacturers in a speech before the Rotary Club attacking the American Federation of Labor for its drive to organize the building industry here.

Unionized building trades, Sargent said, will ultimately mean a unionized automobile industry, with wage boosts there as well.

Sargent is still reiterating the anti-trade union employers economic fallacy that wage increases mean higher production costs.

Henry Ford knows a thing or two about high wages in the automobile industry. He initiated the plan.

Ford's experience demonstrates that wages in the automobile industry can be increased and production costs reduced.

EMPLOYER "DEMOCRACY IN INDUSTRY" REVEALED

Schenectady, N. Y., June 5.—Employe representation in management is often heralded as an application of democracy to industry.

The General Electric Company's works council is frequently featured as an outstanding example of this "democracy."

The company's welfare work includes a pension system, bonus system (euphemistically called a "supplementary compensation plan"), vacations, stock ownership, etc.

But the alleged democracy of the company's scheme apparently does not include the right of the employes to determine the conditions for eligibility for the various benefits.

This is indicated by a notice in the current issue of the Schenectady Works News, the official organ of the company's Schenectady plant.

The notice lays down certain rules to be observed in determining the eligibility of employes to participate in the various schemes mentioned above.

The notice is signed by M. F. Westover, secretary of the General Electric Company and a member of the board of directors.

The representatives of the works council appear to have nothing to say about the rules, although they vitally affect every employe.

WAUKEGAN CO-OPERATIVE DOES LARGE BUSINESS

Waukegan, Ill., June 5.—The sales of the Co-operative Trading Company of Waukegan amounted to $497,206 in 1925, with a net profit of $21,658.

Sales of dairy products reached $262,086 and of groceries $133,053.

The company has capital stock amounting to $37,450 owned by 1,000 stockholders and is increasing it by buying rebates and dividends paid in cash. "Savings deposits" from members are also taken.

SUFFRAGE CONGRESS BARS ANTI-LABOR WOMAN'S PARTY

Paris, June 5.—The World Suffrage Congress, convened under the auspices of the International Suffrage Alliance, rejected the National Woman's Party of America by a vote of 123 to 48.

The Woman's Party has definitely fixed its status in the United States as an anti-labor organization by its so-called "equal rights" program, the essence of which is the abolition of protective legislation for women workers.

The party's application for admission to the congress was opposed by the National League of Women Voters, which favors protective legislation.

CARPENTERS WIN WAGE RAISE

Chicago, June 5.—Union carpenters have signed a three-year pact with a large group of general contractors recognizing the union shop and a wage increase from $1.37½ to $1.50 an hour, effective October 1.

GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS ALABAMA MINE TOWNS

Washington, June 5.—Emphatic condemnation of the insanitary conditions imposed upon the Alabama coal miners by the mine operators in their company towns is contained in the Sanitary Survey of the Coal Mines of Alabama" made for the United States Bureau of Mines by F. V. Meriwether of the bureau's staff.

Company town streets, sewage systems, sanitary administration, housing, garbage and refuse disposal, sanitary equipment of mines, control of communicable diseases and especially tuberculosis, all receive the Bureau's strong criticism as dangerous to the health and lives of the mine workers and remediable by the operators.

"The streets and sidewalks in the camps have not received much attention," declares the Bureau. "Only five camps had sidewalks. The figures show that 44 per cent of the towns have no paved and improved streets and that 80 per cent had no sidewalks."

"None of the towns have sewage systems," says the report, and adds that the mine owners' objections to installing sewage systems are invalid.

As to general sanitary administration the survey finds that the majority of the company towns do not have health departments, but employ the company physician and superintendent to supervise the sanitary and health work.

The companies without health departments usually "pay their physicians by the man on a contract basis, and allow them to do outside practice. This results in many of the physicians devoting their entire time to the practice of medicine and giving little if any thought to sanitation."

And the houses the coal companies provide for the workers? Here they are:

"The houses are in constant need of repair. The roofs of many are leaky, floors are in bad condition and walls are often repaired or papered with newspapers by the workmen. Such conditions are disagreeable, unsightly and unhealthful."

Accidents happen. What then? Let the Bureau of Mines tell it:

"In one town visited it was noted that during rainy weather that the old building used as a temporary hospital leaked badly in five of the seven rooms. If an accident requiring hospitalization of patients occurs during rainy weather, the cases could not be handled in such a building."

The garbage disposal system, the survey declares, is far from satisfactory. "The handling of garbage and refuse in the towns as a whole is poor and needs, in most instances, radical changes."

"Only seven of the mines examined have bathhouses. The average town has no bathhouse, but may have a room and shower for the mine officials.

"The lack of bathhouses," the report states, "shows a lack of care for the comfort of the men. More than that. It endangers their health.

"Where bathhouses are not provided, the men coming from a warm mine in sweaty, dirty clothes must go some distance, often several miles, in wet clothes. In the winter time this is not only disagreeable, but is liable to cause serious sickness."

Then we come to tuberculosis, one of the scourges of miners, both metal and coal. Declaring that "tuberculosis in many instances is undoubtedly contracted in the employment of the mining companies," the Bureau adds:

"Inasmuch as this district is mining both coal and ore, many of the miners have worked in both coal and ore. It is very common to find or hear of tuberculosis among these men.

"The miners, when incapacitated for further work, if they have not means to provide for their treatment in a private sanitarium are forced into charitable institutions. The care and treatment of these cases has been neglected."

The mine operators of Alabama are outstanding opponents of organized labor.

The condition revealed by the survey of the Bureau of Mines shows to what extent inhuman treatment of the workers prevails when the mine operator dictators have an absolutely free hand without the civilizing influence of a virile trade union.

Half Million Ontario Workers Injured In 11 Years; 3,440 Killed

Toronto, Ont., June 5.—Over half a million Ontario workers have been injured in industrial accidents during the last 11 years and 3,440 killed, according to the annual report of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

In 1925 there were 60,012 accidents, and 345 workers were killed. Most of the accidents and killings may be attributed to the neglect or refusal of employers to install adequate accident prevention equipment and otherwise safeguard dangerous occupations.

The board paid out $5,565,443 in accident benefits during 1925, bringing the total benefits disbursed since the enactment of the law 11 years ago up to $51,494,095.

The Ontario workmen's compensation act provides for the exclusive state fund, thus preventing private liability companies exploiting injured workers for the profits of the companies.

The board spends $100,000 a year for the rehabilitation of injured workers.

TARIFF HIT AS FRAUD ON TEXTILE WORKERS

Washington, June 5.—The protective tariff is a sham and a fraud so far as maintaining American standards of living in the cotton textile industry is concerned, according to Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers of America, in a statement made before the Senate Committee on Labor in support of the resolution for an investigation of the wages paid in tariff-protected industries.

Referring to a report by Secretary of Commerce Hoover that the average wage paid 70,000 workers in the cotton industry is $17.03, President McMahon said:

"We must take from this amount the 10 per cent reduction in 1925, and then we have an approximate wage of $15.50 per week.

"This average is not sufficient to meet present living costs and maintain the standards of American working men and women which the tariff proponents claimed would be brought about."

President McMahon also charged that enormous profits have been made by certain textile concerns and declared that few employers in the textile industry "deal fairly with their employes."

DOUBLE PENALTIES PROTECT CHILD-LABOR

New York, June 5.—Imposing on the employer a penalty of double compensation for children injured while illegally employed has brought about striking results in New York, according to Miss Frances Perkins of the State Labor Board.

The law, which has been in operation over two years, applies when the illegality rests on age, working papers, long hours and prohibited occupations.

One large employer was assessed double compensation four times in one week. Whereupon he changed his policy so that now working papers are demanded and children barred from work on dangerous machinery.

Inspectors of the State Child Labor Department are convinced that the double penalty is an effective place to strike child labor employers who permit their zeal for profits to blind their sense of justice for children.

GENERAL STRIKE PLAN WRONG IN PRINCIPLE

London, England, June 5.—The general strike, called by the general council of the Trade Union Congress in support of the coal miners, cost the National Union of Railwaymen a million pounds, according to C. T. Cramp, industrial secretary of the union.

Mr. Cramp also expressed the view that there will not be another general strike of the character just experienced.

"I do not believe," he said, "that a general industrial strike can ever be carried out effectively, because, if we carried it to its logical conclusion, we should starve, and paralyze ourselves as well as everybody else."

MISSOURI WORKERS FAVOR COMPENSATION

Jefferson City, Mo., June 5.—The convention of the Missouri Federation of Labor favored by an overwhelming vote the adoption of the workmen's compensation law pending before the people of the state and to be voted on through the referendum next November.

The convention also condemned those made guilty of disorderly conduct should be labeled "convict made" before being placed on the market, and urged the State Legislature to enact the model convict-made goods law sponsored by the American Federation of Labor.

LABOR LEADER DIES

Newark, N. J., June 5.—The death of Frank McNulty inflicts a great loss on the labor movement.

McNulty was born in Ireland, August 10, 1872, emigrating to America as a boy, and studying the electrical trade.

For more than 18 years he was president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and prominent in New Jersey labor circles.

From 1918 to 1922 he was deputy commissioner of public safety in Newark. He was elected to Congress in 1922.

AUTO KILLS THOUSANDS

New York, June 5.—The automobile is a destructive car, according to figures by William H. Connell, retiring president of the American Road Builders' Association. "Last year automobiles in the United States killed 25,000 persons and injured 700,000.

"While drastic measures must be taken to eliminate reckless driving," said Mr. Connell, "a great deal of money must also be spent on the elimination of dangerous conditions on the public highways."

NEEDLE-TRADES UNION BUYS INSURANCE STOCK

New York, June 5.—Officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union have voted to purchase a large block of stock of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company.

"This co-operative movement," says Justice, official magazine of the garment workers, "is a fine, constructive enterprise and deserves the support of every trade union.

"Insurance is a tremendous and marvelously growing business. In the United States and Canada there were over 90,000,000 policies with an approximate value of $40,000,000,000 at the end of 1924. Of the premiums paid by policy holders, it is estimated that members of organized labor contributed about $150,000,000. These funds go into the coffers of Wall Street-controlled insurance companies to be added to the resources with which the banking interests dominate the economic life of the country.

"That a life insurance company controlled by workers and operated in the interests of the workers can materially reduce workers' insurance costs is not doubted. The successful operation of such companies in Europe furnish ample evidence.

"The Union Labor Life Insurance Company will not begin to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in salaries. It will not have to spend millions yearly for an army of solicitors and collectors, as it plans to carry on its work through labor organizations [illegible] and with it by making the[illegible]ed agencies. In a wo[illegible] sell life insurance to [illegible] prime object [illegible]ured."

INTERNATIONAL UNITY FOR ORGANIZED LABOR

Amsterdam, June 5.—"The motto 'divide and rule' voices the chief remaining hope of the capitalist classes in their efforts to retain control of the economic system," declares J. W. Brown, secretary of the International Federation of Trade Unions, in an article stressing the necessity for international unity in the trade union movement.

"The policy the motto so aptly summarizes," continues Brown, "can only be effectively countered if fratricidal warfare in the ranks of organized labor is abolished and the closest possible co-operation and co-ordination of forces established.

"There are rifts and dissensions in the trade union movement. They are to be deplored. In the strength of our movement we can have every confidence. There is only one thing that can beat us, and that is division in our own ranks."

UNION GAINS: SAFETY, LEISURE, EDUCATION

Peoria, Ill., June 5.—"Safety, leisure, education, not only for limited membership, but for all the people, these represent the important gains of the trade union movement, in addition to higher standards of life in other respects," declared Secretary-Treasurer Victor Hetter of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, in an address at the dedication ceremonies of the Peoria Labor Temple.

"Safety means life. Leisure gives opportunity for abundant life, and education results in more abundant life.

"It is true, of course, that many still work long hours. There are yet great dangers to be eliminated from industry and even some child labor.

"But we have made progress and we have much to be proud of.

"We now look into the future and dedicate this labor temple to a still better day.

"It is a temple, indeed, in the best sense of the term—a place in which workers gather to give expression to their desires."

INCREASED PROTECTION ASKED FOR EMIGRANTS

Geneva, June 5.—Measures for the protection of emigrants aboard ships, with particular reference to women emigrants, are being considered by the International Labor Conference. Representatives of 50 countries are in attendance.

It is estimated that at least a million emigrants cross the seas annually.

A demand is being made for the presence of an inspector on every ship and a woman nurse whenever there are 15 women emigrants aboard.

Bishop Nolens of Netherlands, president of the conference, stressed the importance of uniform international labor legislation.

Albert Thomas, director of the labor office of the conference, urged the adoption of international economic and financial agreements to prevent one nation or a group of nations from impeding the prosperity of all others. He also stated that the economic ills of Europe were greatly aggravated by the policy of excessive protectionism by various countries.

GOVERNMENT INVENTION HELPS COTTON INDUSTRY

Washington, June 5.—An attachment for use on cotton planters to insure uniform depth of planting and proper packing of the soil around the seed has been perfected by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Commercial cotton planters have reduced the output of cotton by improper planting, resulting in poor stands through lack of germination. The department's invention has been enthusiastically received by the cotton planters, whose poor stands of cotton are attributed to improper planting machines.

The department has applied for public-service patents on the invention. This will make it available to all without payment of royalties necessary with privately owned patents.

UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASES

Washington, June 5.—Employment in manufacturing industries, with pay rolls including 2,971,407 employes decreased by 32,565 workers in April, as compared with March, 1925, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

International Economic Conference Puts Labor In Subordinate Place

Geneva, June 5.—The fact that all the wealth of the present economic order is produced by the millions of workers in industry did not impress the organizers of the International Economic Conference of the League of Nations as of enough importance to warrant giving labor a prominent place in the conference.

The organizing work for the conclave is performed by the League of Nations Preparatory Committee of the International Economic Conference. The preparatory committee recently met in Geneva. Out of 36 members, there are but five representatives of the labor movement.

The co-operative movement has but one member. The remaining 30 members consist of capitalists, bankers, politicians, employer economists and other typical representatives of those who own rather than those who produce and consume.

The chairman of the committee declared that the object of the coming conference is "to make an effort to reduce the number of opportunities for international conflict afforded between economic interests and, in view of the present crisis, examine the possibility of an international discussion of the most effectual methods for restoring general prosperity."

The labor members are: Eggert, member of the committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions; Citrine, assistant secretary-general of General Labor Federation of France; Oudegeest, secretary of the International Federation of Trade Unions; Pauwels, secretary-general of the Belgian Federation of Christian Trade Unions; Shaw, secretary of the National Weavers' Union of Great Britain, representing the Trades Union Congress.

Mme. Freundlich, president of the International Guild of Co-operative Societies, represents the co-operative movement.

WAGE-CUT LOCKOUT HITS NORWEGIAN LABOR

Christiana, Norway, June 5.—Norwegian employers have locked out 30,000 workers in an attempt to enforce a wage cut running from 25 to 40 per cent.

Claiming that Norwegian currency has appreciated and living costs are reduced, the employers insisted on reaping the benefits by decreased wages.

The bosses also demanded a reduction in the number of holidays.

The organized workers resisted the employers' demands.

The state arbitration court intervened and sided with the bosses with a wage reduction running from 14 to 17 per cent and another one later by the device of a proposed reassessment of wages on the basis on the new cost of living index to be published next August.

The trade unions rejected the court's award by an overwhelming majority.

The employers responded with the lockout.

CENSORSHIP OF BOOKS DEMANDED BY BISHOP

Washington, June 5.—Government inspection of books in libraries, with a view to censoring those found to be bad food for the mind, was advocated by Bishop John W. Hamilton, in an address at the laying of the corner stone of the Bratelle Memorial Library building at the American University here.

The bishop holds that an "unguarded library" is a great danger. His reasoning is that the State provides inspectors of food for the body. Therefore the State should also provide "inspectors of the food for the mind."

BAKERS WIN UNION SHOP

Hazleton, Pa., June 5.—A Bakery and Confectionery Workers' Union has won an outstanding victory in an agreement reached with the leading baking concerns of Hazleton. The agreement includes recognition of the union, use of the union label, reduction of the working week from 70 hours to 54, inclusive of three hours set aside per week for lunch, time and one-half for overtime, years increases ranging from $1 to $10 per week, and one day off in a holiday week with no reduction of pay.

The officers of the Hazleton Building Trades Council and District No. 7 of the United Mine Workers rendered valuable assistance in bringing about the settlement.

DOLLAR SHRINKS

New York, June 5.—The purchasing value of the dollar based on the cost of living was 59.4 cents in July, 1925, as compared with 61.4 in July, 1914, declares the National Industrial Conference Board, an association of employers.

SWEDISH UNIONS INCREASE

Stockholm, Sweden, June 5.—The Swedish Trade Union Federation has increased its membership in 1925 from 360,337 to 384,617. The largest union is the metal workers with 76,93 members.

COMPETITIVE SYSTEM SWIPES COTTON FARMERS

Washington, June 5.—"Cotton is selling today at from 2 to 4 cents a pound less than it costs to produce it," declares Congressman Whitting-ton of Mississippi in describing the cotton farmer's position under the competitive system of production and urging the necessity of some form of legislative relief for the agricultural industry.

"Because the farmers are unorganized they exercise comparatively little control over supply, demand, or price," Whittington added. "Others who sell fix their prices. The 6,500,000 farmers in the United States are competing with each other and with the 1d-500,000 farmers in the world to sell their products to buyers that are organized.

"No other industry could survive such a system."

COTTON COOPERATIVES SELL 9 PER CENT OF CROP

Washington, June 5.—About 9 per cent of the 1925 cotton crop was marketed by farmers' co-operatives, according to the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Out of 16,000,000 bales sold, the co-operatives handled 1,500,000 bales.

The 1921 crop was the first one in which the farmers' cooperatives did much business. In that year they marketed 5 per cent of the crop.

Twelve of the 16 cotton-marketing associations have recently established the American Cotton Growers' Exchange.

LONGSHOREMEN SEEKING ACCIDENT PROTECTION

Washington, June 5.—Trade union officials are watching closely the progress of the longshoremen's compensation bill through the Senate.

Lack of compensation for accidents to longshoremen is one of the amazing anomalies of American jurisprudence.

At least a third of a million workers are engaged in the hazardous tasks of loading, unloading and repairing vessels at the docks.

Longshoremen are exposed to greater hazards than most factory employes.

The states provide accident compensation for the factory workers. They also provide compensation for the longshoremen if injured while on shore. But let him step aboard a ship and protection is denied him. A damage suit is his only recourse.

INDUSTRIAL PROSPERITY WARRANTS WAGE BOOST

Cairns, Queensland, Australia, June 5.—"The government recognizes that whatever system operates for the determination and adjustment of wages should take into account the relative prosperity of the industries of the state, and should function in such a manner as will allow the workers engaged in industry to participate in such prosperity," declared Prime Minister McCormack in a policy speech in addition to outlining the government's program.

"If the country as a whole is better able, owing to increased productivity, to pay higher wages than could be paid in former years, there is very justification for an increased standard.

"A very thorough investigation last year by the Economic Commission into the question of purchasing power provided convincing evidence of Queensland's capacity to pay an increase in the basic rate of wages.

"It was shown that the average production per employe in Queensland increased from 236 pounds in 1913 to 424 pounds in 1924. The effective wage had not increased in like proportion."

TRADE UNIONS APPLY CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES

Peoria, Ill., June 5.—"I think there is no movement in the world today that acknowledges and exemplifies the work of the early Christians so much as does the labor movement," declared Secretary-Treasurer H. Hetter of the Illinois State Federation of Labor in an address at the dedication ceremonies of the Peoria labor temple.

"Take the Ten Commandments and endeavor to make them apply today and you will have the philosophy of the trade union movement. 'Thou shalt not steal.' 'Thou shalt not kill.' 'Help one another.' These early Christian principles are the fundamentals of the trade union movement.

"I firmly believe there is a trade union in the world that hasn't got as a part of its preamble, if not written, then as a by-word, the direction to 'Help one another.'

"The labor movement requires that no one shall be denied the right to form all members toward each other and in their relationship to others."

WIDE DISPARITY BETWEEN WAGES OF MEN AND WOMEN

Atlanta, Ga., June 5.—Wide disparity between the weekly earnings of men and women factory workers is shown by the report of the State Department of Labor on earnings for April, 1926.

Weekly earnings of men averaged $32.75, while the women averaged $18.30.

PRINTERS WIN WAGE INCREASES

Indianapolis, June 5.—The International Typographical Union reports wage increases negotiated in 18 towns running from $1 a week in Worcester, Mass., to $5 in Macomb, Ill.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGE

Weirton, W. Va., June 5.—Carpenters have won their higher wage strike. Wages are advanced from $1.25 an hour to $1.37½.